Hameli target of probe

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Del. attorney general's investigation of former chief medical examiner not tied to dismissal

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WILMINGTON — Dr. Ali Z. Hameli, who was fired Wednesday as Delaware's chief medical examiner, is under criminal investigation by the state attorney general's office.

"By no means does that mean there has been a criminal violation of any law," Chief Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Jennings said Thursday. "It's just something we have to do."

Hameli, a world-renowned forensic pathologist, was fired by Health and Social

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Services Secretary Carmen R. Nazario, who declined to cite her reasons for his dismissal. He had been the chief medical examiner for almost 30 years.

Jennings said the investigation was necessary based on information her office received and is independent of his dismissal. Jennings said she could not comment on the investigation, but that it would be completed in a few weeks.

"I don't want anyone's reputation to be harmed," she said. "We have a job to do. It could result in no charges. We need to look into things to see if anything is there."

Hameli could not be reached for comment. His lawyer, Sheldon N. Sandler, said he had no comment.

State government sources told The News Journal Wednesday that two women, former employees, complained that Hameli made sexually harassing remarks to them. Jennings would not comment on whether that was the focus of the investigation.

Until a committee conducts a national search to find a permanent replacement, Dr. Richard T. Callery, a pathologist at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, will serve as acting chief medical examiner.

Callery will be paid $105,000 a year. Hameli earned $106,899.96.